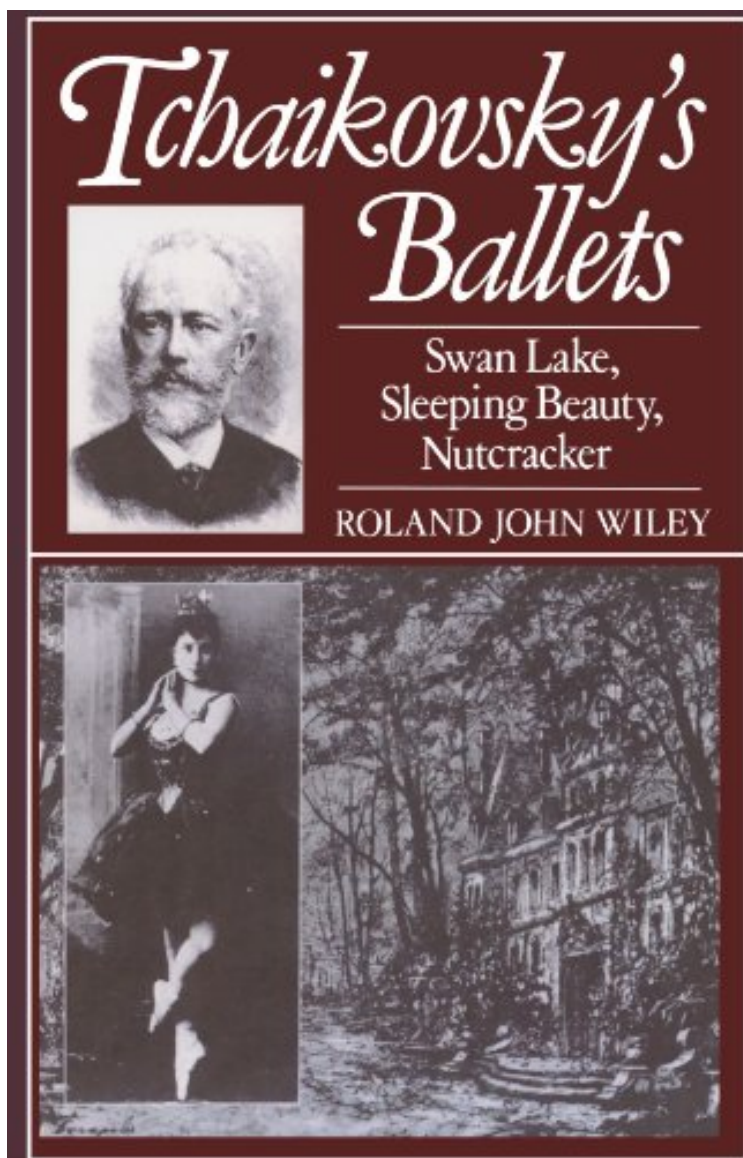


[Mobile pdf] Tchaikovsky's Ballets: Swan Lake, Sleeping Beauty, Nutcracker (Oxford Monographs on Music)

## Tchaikovsky's Ballets: Swan Lake, Sleeping Beauty, Nutcracker (Oxford Monographs on Music)

*Roland John Wiley*

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**Roland John Wiley : Tchaikovsky's Ballets: Swan Lake, Sleeping Beauty, Nutcracker (Oxford Monographs on Music)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Tchaikovsky's Ballets: Swan Lake, Sleeping Beauty, Nutcracker (Oxford Monographs on Music):

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. The Most Comprehensive Assortment of Information By Maggie I found this book to be the most comprehensive assortment of information not otherwise readily found elsewhere on these ballets. I was absolutely enthralled not only with the specifics of the information but also its range. If you are at all interested in ballet history or are considering mounting one of the three big Tchaikovsky's ballets, this book is a must read. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. wonderful, engaging By eyetemper A pleasure to read, both from a musical as well as dance perspective. The author's expertise and lively prose make this one of the rare scholarly reference book that is anything but dry. Keen musical analyses are side by side with endearing personal anecdotes about Tchaikovsky's encounters with his collaborators. Truly illuminating and a joy to read for anyone interested in the Russian ballet theatre as well as Tchaikovsky fans. 9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Tchaikovsky's Ballets By Julio Feliu Roland John Wiley's treatise on Tchaikovsky's ballets is the most comprehensive, enlightening and informative dissertation that I have read thus far. While most analyses of the ballets focus on the choreography, Wiley's book provides a complete historical, social and political context that sheds not only new light on the ballets but Tchaikovsky's creativeness as well. Initially, I hesitated getting this book because of its price tag. Reading the book made me immediately realize that it was a must have at any price. Moreover, I would highly recommend Wiley's 2009 book "Tchaikovsky," which is on a par with David Brown's four-volume work on Tchaikovsky. Both authors provide accurate and detailed objective analyses on both the composer and his music. Do not be put off by the price. This book on Tchaikovsky's ballets is a must have for those who love ballet and Tchaikovsky.

Tchaikovsky's Ballets combines a detailed and thorough analysis of the music of Swan Lake, Sleeping Beauty, and Nutcracker with descriptions of the first productions of these works in Imperial Russia. A background chapter on the ballet audience, the collaboration of composer and balletmaster, and Moscow of the 1860's leads into an account of the first production of Swan Lake in 1877. A discussion of theater reforms initiated by the Director of the Imperial Theaters prepares the reader for a study of the still-famous 1890 St. Petersburg production of Sleeping Beauty. Wiley then explains how the Nutcracker, produced just two years after Sleeping Beauty, was seen in a much less favorable light than it is now. Separate chapters are devoted to the music of each ballet and translations of published libretti, choreographer's instructions to the composer, and the balletmaster's plans for Sleeping Beauty and the Nutcracker are reproduced in appendices.

"Wiley's analysis of the musical background of the choreography of the Tchaikovsky-Petipa ballets is fascinating...I find it refreshing to read a musicologist's view, rather than a dance historian's, because of the minute analysis it offers of how the music itself influences the choreography."--Deborah Jowitt, *Lingua Franca*"Wiley is thoroughly conversant with the large Russian literature on Tchaikovsky's ballets. It will be one of the book's important contributions that it introduces Western readers to this material and offers a critical assessment of it....An important and pioneering work. He articulates an approach to the study of a composite work of art that is seldom pursued in musicological research on ballet....The scope of documented information alone will make his book indispensable for scholars, performers, and ballet lovers alike."--*Journal of the American Musicological Society*"[Wiley's] evaluations of Chaikovskii's music, illuminating the master's musical innovations, and his comprehensive history of each ballet, tracing the ballets' origins, composition, and first productions, will delight music-lovers and balletomanes alike....Wiley's penetrating musical analyses of each ballet...give rare insight into Chaikovskii's musical genius often overlooked in studies of his ballet music....Eschewing ideology, Wiley far exceeds his Soviet counterparts with his comprehensive and significant analyses....[His] substantial and engrossing reassessments of these monuments of Russian ballet establish them as great artistic and musical achievements."--Slavic "Wiley has dug deep into the Russian archives, scrutinizing not only books and contemporary newspapers, but every manuscript source he could uncover....Yet Wiley has not given us a dull, austere treatise; there is plenty of humanity and local color in his descriptions of the ballet audience in nineteenth-century Russia...we should be grateful that he has brought us that much closer to an understanding of these three extraordinary highlights of our dance heritage."--*Dance Research Journal*"An authoritative, important, useful book on dance, based on primary source materials, meticulously researched, and intelligently presented....Tchaikovsky's Ballets inevitably forces us to reassess our views...and Tchaikovsky must be recognized as the virtual creator of modern ballet."--*New Criterion*About the Author Roland John Wiley is at University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.